

Polyfaith.com audio files on archive.org

What is all of this about?

Mainly love.

Listen to the sound files on archive.org as a taster for www.polyfaith.com

This is a highly unusual and totally free tour of Edinburgh that you can either enjoy from afar, or in actuality, going around the places with either the printable map, or with the recommended added dimension of the mp3 files as you visit the locations with an ipod / other mp3 player / portable CD player (you can burn with files from the site). Obviously we hope you will actually come to Edinburgh and do it in person. This site has also (unintentionally) served the purpose of being a permanent monument to a fascinating Edinburgh character.

Why do this ?

My friend Erica Tetralix died. She gave me the task of fulfilling her dream which was that people would enjoy the parts of Edinburgh that were so dear to her in her life. She also loved tourists and sympathised with people on a budget, so she devised, with my posthumous help, this free way to enjoy the city. It's a beautiful gift for both transients and residents. It's popular with backpackers, parents and children, cultural groups and well, basically anyone. There are several ways of looking at the tour; such as tourism itself, walking activity, educational project (schools can do the tour), peace process, inter-faith exercise, public transport survey, aesthetic travel, "a living outdoor museum" or like many people do this, as pilgrimage to remember the living and the dead.

How long does it take to do the tour ?

Some people do it all in one day. It's certainly a big commitment to do it in one day as the distances are quite large, but then again, Edinburgh is a small city. I personally usually do it over two days, but I know people who like to do it over a "holy period of time" such as seven days, or sometimes three days. It doesn't matter. If you don't have time to do the whole tour, then yes, by all means, just pick one location, but it's best to do the lot.

How do I do the tour ?

Firstly, you must do it chronologically. This is essential. A few of the locations centre around Inverleith, which was no surprise to me as Erica loved this part of Edinburgh. However, don't be tempted to "bag" all the inverleith locations in one go. Do it as prescribed.

Secondly, we recommend you do it on public transport with a day saver on LRT buses. We have arranged a special pass with them, if you pay £2.30 (currently) you can travel around Edinburgh all day, but you +must+ ask the bus driver for "a day saviour," not saver. This is the special protocol. "Can I have a day Saviour Please?" is the correct way. Only do it all on foot if you are very fit and healthy. You will cover several miles.

Thirdly, it's really easy.

Go to Edinburgh,

Print out the printable map.

Find the location, (best with a streetfinder booklet or streetmap of Edinburgh).

Go there.

Look at what the tour suggests.

Listen to the audio file in situ OR read the story about the location.

How many locations ("stations") are there ?

There are ten.

How long should I allow in each location ?

A minimum of fifteen minutes. Some stay much more than this.

What is the best time of day to do this ?

Any time. But not at night. If you are going up Jacob's Ladder (the Jewish / 9th location) do it during the day as it can be a bit dingy, full of graffiti.

Can I do the tour with others ?

Absolutely. Some prefer to do it alone, as it has contemplative themes. Others do it in a group.

I am not religious, can I still do the tour ?

Absolutely. Erica claimed she also was not religious (although I have my doubts about this, it depends on your definition I guess).

I am religious. Can I still do the tour ?

Please Do! But If you have any doubts about doing the tour please consult your own faith community. We don't usually have any problems.

Do I have to have an mp3 player or CD player ?

No, but it's certainly better with it because you may hear some of the people Erica has met, talking on the tour. However, please feel free just to print out the directions to the locations and the stories in text and pictures. Please see below also if you have no player.

I can't download the files, can I get a CD of the audio files ?

Yes. We have free loan copies of the CD Audio tour from Stills, in Edinburgh's Cockburn Street, but you have to turn up in person to get one. This is quite a good idea. We can also loan you a portable CD player for a deposit of £20 which you get back at the end of your tour. In special circumstances, we will send a CD to you if you are desperate to hear the files, especially if you are sick or infirm.

Is the tour wheelchair friendly ?

Most of the tour is wheelchair accessible aside from the Jewish location which has steps involved. If you are wanting someone to help lift you all the way up the steps in this location we may be able to help. Being wheelchair accessible wasn't something that was at the forefront of Erica's mind, as this is a tour, in part, about her, but we will do our best.

I like the audio files, can I share them with friends ?

Yes. But all copyright strictly belongs to Chris Dooks and Erica Tetralix.

Should I read or listen to the mp3s before visiting the tour ?

Only if you know for certain that you are definitely not going to be able to come to Edinburgh then yes, listen to the files and read the stories. However, if you do the tour in Edinburgh itself, your tour experience is enriched when you are in situ to enjoy the multimedia experience of being in the locations and listening to the files.

Will all the exhibits be there for ever ?

Hopefully for some time. We have no idea. Erica frequently told me not to get too attached to anything in the material world as physics states the universal truth that everything is in constant flux. A few of the exhibits won't last more than a couple of years perhaps... She tried to choose places that would be easily publicly accessible as, well, she was just a regular member of the public, but we have no guarantee as to what state things will be in when you visit the Tetralix Polyfaith Tour, nor do we have any responsibility to maintain them. However, we would +greatly+ appreciate you collecting litter at the sites and disposing of it / recycling it. These are sacred locations and Erica would love that.

Where can I find more information on Erica ?

Nowhere. You can email me questions, but pretty much what is on the site is all I know. Most of the information you need to know about Erica is contained in the sites of her birth and grave. Her ashes are in the grave area.

What does "Polyfaith" mean ?

It's a term Erica used to use. I understood it to mean "of many faiths" but others have said it can also mean "interested in, but not committed to many faiths" and others still have told me it can mean "The extraction of the essence of many faiths by activity"

Is Polyfaith the same as "Interfaith" ?

Possibly. I don't know. As far as I am aware, "Interfaith" refers to dialogue between faiths.

I would like to give a donation to the project, can I ?

No need, but you can give it to one of Erica's favourite charities, Amnesty International. We would really appreciate this. If you send us a copy of your on-line donation to Amnesty, I will include your details on the site if you wish. You can change your name or have it listed as "Anonymous" if you prefer. Or just give them your money.

I want to do something practical for this project, can I ?

Yes. You can help by going to a part of Edinburgh either on the tour or not and collecting rubbish. Erica used to say this was as religious as she got, and that it was a practical way of doing divine work. I have helped her collect and recycle rubbish from parks on occasions. Just as we were walking through the city. Eventually, this kind of activity

became part of Erica's very being! If you have this idea, carry it out somewhere, however small.

How do I contact you?

send an email to bovinelife@yahoo.com